This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A cationic dye ~~Cationic dyes~~ of ~~the general~~ formula I

$$CAT^{+} Y^{-} \quad (I),$$

wherein

CAT^{+} is a cation selected from azine, xanthene, polymethine, styryl, azo, tetrazolium, pyrylium, benzopyrylium, thiopyrylium, benzothiopyrylium, thiazine, oxazine, triarylmethane, diarylmethane, acridine, quinoline, isoquinoline, and quaternized azafluorenone dyes,

~~where~~ Y^{-} is an anion selected from ~~the group~~ CAB^{-}, FAP^{-}, FAB^{-}, and ~~or~~ Im^{-},

~~where~~

CAB^{-} conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-1)

$$[B(CN)_{y1}F_{4-y1-x1}(R^0)_{x1}]^{-} \quad (II\text{-}1),$$

~~and~~

y1 is ~~denotes~~ 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

R^0 is ~~denotes~~ alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkyl-aryl, with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

~~where~~

FAP^{-} conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-2)

$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^{-} \quad (II\text{-}2),$$

~~with~~

p2 [[:]] is 1 to 20,

m2 [[:]] is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y2 [[:]] is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

FAB^{-} conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-3)

$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^{-} \quad (II\text{-}3),$$

~~with~~

p3 [[:]] is 1 to 20,

m3 [[:]] is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y3 [[ ]] is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

Im⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-4)

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\ N\ (C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \qquad (II\text{-}4),$$

~~and the variables~~

X is ~~denotes~~ carbon or sulfur,

p4 is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \le m4 \le 2p4+1$,

q is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \le k \le 2q+1$,

y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 or 2,

~~where~~

m4 is [[=]] 0 if p4 is [[=]] 0, ~~and~~

k is [[=]] 0 if q is [[=]] 0, and

the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the ~~proviso~~ provisos that:

if X is sulfur, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 2, and if X is carbon, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 and p4 or $q \ge 1$, and

~~and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F,~~

~~and~~

~~CA⁺ is a cation selected from the group of the azine, xanthene, polymethine, styryl, azo, tetrazolium, pyrylium, benzopyrylium, thiopyrylium, benzothiopyrylium, thiazine, oxazine, triarylmethane, diarylmethane, acridine, quinoline, isoquinoline or quaternised azafluorenone dyes,~~

~~where~~ 3,3'-diethoxyethyl-2,2'-thiadicarbocyanine trifluoromethyltrifluoroborate is excluded.

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2. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of an azine dye.

3. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a xanthene dye.

4. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a polymethine dye.

5. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a styryl dye.

6. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of an azo dye.

7. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a tetrazolium dye.

8. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a pyrylium dye.

9. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a benzopyrylium dye.

10. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a thiopyrylium dye.

11. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a benzothiopyrylium dye.

12. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a thiazine dye.

13. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of an oxazine dye.

14. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a triarylmethane dye.

15. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a diarylmethane dye.

16. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of an acridine dye.

17. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a quinoline dye.

18. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of an isoquinoline dye.

19. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a quaternary azafluorenone dye.

20. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 4, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a cyanine dye.

21. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 4, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a carbocyanine dye.

22. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 4, wherein ~~character-~~

~~ised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of an azacarbocyanine dye.

23. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 4, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a diazacarbocyanine dye.

24. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 4, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a triazacarbocyanine dye.

25. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 4, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a hemicyanine dye.

26. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 4, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ CAT^+ is a cation of a diazahemicyanine dye.

27. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ Y^- is a cyanoborate of ~~the~~ formula II-1

$$[B(CN)_{y1}F_{4-y1-x1}(R^0)_{x1}]^- \qquad (II\text{-}1)_a$$

wherein ~~and~~

y1 is ~~denotes~~ 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2 or 3 and

R^0 is ~~denotes~~ alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkyl-aryl, with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y1 is >2.

28. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ Y^- is a fluoroalkylphosphate of ~~the~~ formula II-2

$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^- \qquad (II\text{-}2)_a$$

wherein ~~with~~

p2 is 1 to 20,

m2 is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and

y2 is 1, 2, 3 or 4

~~p2: 1 to 20,~~

~~m2: 0, 1, 2 or 3 and~~

~~y2: 1, 2, 3 or 4.~~

29. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ Y^- is a fluoroalkylborate of ~~the~~ formula II-3

$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^- \quad (II-3)_1$$

wherein ~~with~~

p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

~~where 3,3' diethoxyethyl 2,2' thiadicarbocyanine trifluoromethyltrifluoroborate is excluded.~~

30. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~character-ised in that~~ Y^- is an imide of the formula II-4

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\,N\,(C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \quad (II-4)$$

wherein ~~and the variables~~

X is ~~denotes~~ carbon or sulfur,

p4 is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \le m4 \le 2p4+1$,

q is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \le k \le 2q+1$,

y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 or 2,

m4 is 0 if p4 is 0, and

k is 0 if q is 0,

~~where m4 = 0 if p4 = 0 and k = 0 if q = 0,~~

with the proviso that

if X is sulfur, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 2, and if X is carbon, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 and p4 or $q \ge 1$;

~~and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F.~~

31. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ for the preparation of a cationic dye

~~dyes~~ according to claim 1, said process comprising: ~~characterised in that~~

reacting a compound of ~~the general~~ formula XXI

$$CAT^+A^- \quad (XXI),$$

~~where CAT$^+$ is a cation selected from the group of the azine, xanthene, polymethine, styryl, azo, tetrazolium, pyrylium, benzopyrylium, thiopyrylium, benzothiopyrylium, thiazine, oxazine, triarylmethane, diarylmethane, acridine, quinoline, isoquinoline or quaternised azafluorenone dyes~~

wherein and A$^-$ is ~~denotes~~ Cl$^-$, Br$^-$, I$^-$, BF_4^-, PF_6^-, ClO_4^-, sulfate, tosylate, hydrosulfate, triflate, trifluoroacetate, acetate or oxalate,

~~is reacted~~ with a compound of ~~the general~~ formula XXII

$$E^+ Y^- \quad (XXII)$$

wherein ~~where~~ Y$^-$ is ~~an anion selected from the group~~ CAB$^-$, FAP$^-$, FAB$^-$ or Im$^-$.

~~where CAB$^-$ conforms to the general formula (II-1)~~

~~$$[B(CN)_{y1}F_{4-y1-x1}(R^0)_{x1}]^- \quad (II-1)$$~~

~~and~~

~~y1 denotes 1, 2, 3 or 4,~~

~~x1 denotes 0, 1, 2 or 3 and~~

~~R^0 denotes alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkylaryl,~~

~~with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,~~

~~where FAP$^-$ conforms to the general formula (II-2)~~

~~$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^- \quad (II-2)$$~~

~~with~~

~~p2: 1 to 20,~~

~~m2: 0, 1, 2 or 3 and~~

~~y2: 1, 2, 3 or 4,~~

~~where FAB$^-$ conforms to the general formula (II-3)~~

~~$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^- \quad (II-3)$$~~

~~with~~

~~p3 1 to 20,~~

~~m3 — 0, 1, 2 or 3 and~~

~~y3 — 1, 2, 3 or 4,~~

~~where Im⁻ conforms to the general formula (II-4)~~

~~$[(C_{p4}F_{3p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})N(C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^-$ (II-4)~~

~~and the variables~~

~~X — denotes carbon or sulfur,~~

~~p4 — denotes 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m4 \leq 2p4+1$,~~

~~q — denotes 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q+1$,~~

~~y4 — denotes 1 or 2,~~

~~where m4 = 0 if p4 = 0 and k = 0 if q = 0,~~

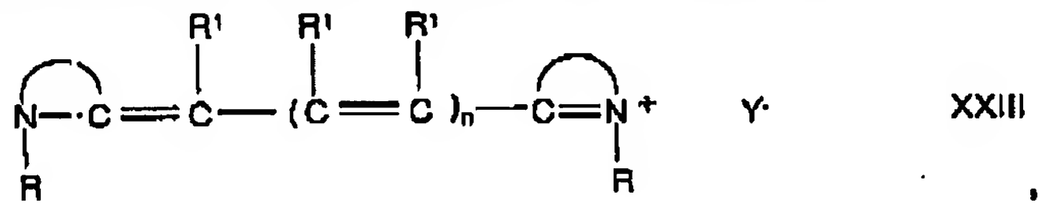
~~with the proviso~~

~~if X is sulfur, y4 denotes 2 and if X is carbon, y4 denotes 1 and p4 or q ≥ 1,~~

~~and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F,~~ and

E^+ is a cation selected from cations of ~~the~~ alkali metals, alkaline earth metals or of a metal from group 11 and 12, ammonium, alkylammonium containing C_1-C_4-alkyl, phosphonium, alkylphosphonium containing C_1-C_4-alkyl, and ~~or~~ guanidinium.

32. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ for the preparation of carbocyanine dye ~~dyes~~ according to Claim 21, where the carbocyanine dye conforms to ~~the~~ formula XXIII



XXIII

wherein ~~in which~~

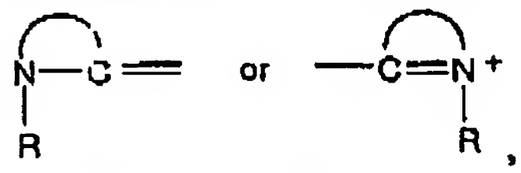
n is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5,

R in each case, independently of one another, is ~~denotes~~ alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, ~~and~~

R^1 in each case, independently of one another, is ~~denotes~~ H, Cl, Br, I, alkyl, partially or fully chlorinated alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, Oalkyl, Oaryl, Salkyl, Saryl, NHalkyl, $N(alkyl)_2$, C(O)H, C(O)alkyl, C(O)aryl, CN, N=N-aryl, $P(aryl)_2$, NHC(O)alkyl or

NHC(O)aryl and

the ring system, represented by



is ~~denotes~~ a nitrogen-containing unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic heterocycle having 5 to 13 ring members, which optionally contains ~~may furthermore contain~~ 1, 2 or 3 N and/or 1 or 2 S or O atoms and ~~in which~~ the heterocyclic radical is optionally ~~may be~~ mono- or polysubstituted by Z,

Z is ~~denotes~~ hydrogen, alkyl, NO_2, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, COOH, Oalkyl, SCN, SCF_3, COOalkyl, CH_2-COOalkyl, NH_2, NHalkyl or $N(alkyl)_2$

~~and~~

~~where~~

Y^- is an anion selected from ~~the group~~ CAB^-, FAP^-, FAB and/~~or~~ Im^-,

~~where~~

CAB^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-1)

$$[B(CN)_{y1}F_{4-y1-x1}(R^0)_{x1}]^- \quad \text{(II-1)}$$

~~and~~

y1 is ~~denotes~~ 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

R^0 is ~~denotes~~ alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkyl-aryl, with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

~~where~~

FAP^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-2)

$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^- \quad \text{(II-2)},$$

~~with~~

p2 | [:]] is 1 to 20,

m2 [[:]]is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y2 | [:]] is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

FAB^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-3)

$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^- \quad (II\text{-}3)_a$$

~~with~~

p3 [[:]] is 1 to 20,

m3 [[:]] is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y3 [[:]] is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

Im^+ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-4)

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\ N\ (C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \quad (II\text{-}4)_a$$

~~and the variables~~

X is ~~denotes~~ carbon or sulfur,

p4 is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \le m4 \le 2p4+1$,

q is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \le k \le 2q+1$,

y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 or 2,

~~where~~

m4 is [[=]] 0 if p4 is [[=]] 0, ~~and~~

k is [[=]] 0 if q is [[=]] 0, and

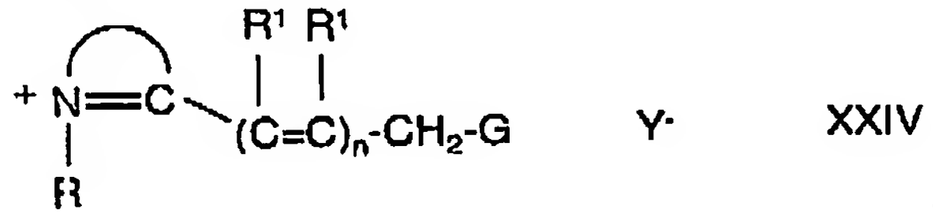
the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the proviso that

if X is sulfur, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 2, and if X is carbon, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 and p4 or $q \ge 1$,

~~and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F,~~

said process comprising utilizing ~~characterised in that use is made of~~ a compound of ~~the~~ formula XXIV



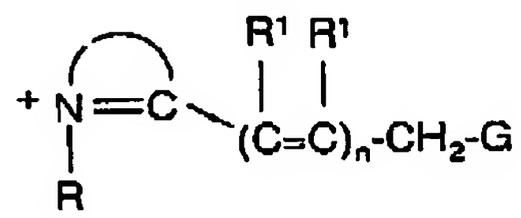
XXIV

where the ring system, R, R^1 and Y^- have one of the meanings indicated in the case of formula XXIII, and

n is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

G is ~~denotes~~ hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, N=C(R)$_2$, CONHaryl, C(O)aryl or CONHalkyl.

33. (Currently Amended): A compound according to ~~Compounds of the~~ formula XXIV



XXIV

where

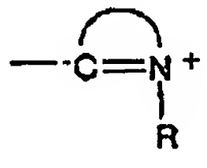
n is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,

G is ~~denotes~~ hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, N=C(R)$_2$, CONHaryl, C(O)aryl or CONHalkyl,

R is ~~denotes~~ alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl,

R^1 is in each case, independently of one another, ~~denotes~~ H, Cl, Br, I, alkyl, partially or fully chlorinated alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, Oalkyl, Oaryl, Salkyl, Saryl, NHalkyl, N(alkyl)$_2$, C(O)H, C(O)alkyl, C(O)aryl, CN, N=N-aryl, P(aryl)$_2$, NHC(O)alkyl or NHC(O)aryl, and

the ring system, represented by



is ~~denotes~~ a nitrogen-containing unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic heterocycle having 5 to 13 ring members, optionally containing ~~which may furthermore contain~~ 1, 2 or 3 N and/or 1 or 2 S or O atoms and in which the heterocyclic radical is optionally ~~may be~~ mono- or polysubstituted by Z,

Z is ~~denotes~~ hydrogen, alkyl, NO_2, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, COOH, Oalkyl, SCN, SCF_3, COOalkyl, CH_2-COOalkyl, NH_2, NHalkyl or N(alkyl)$_2$,

~~and~~

~~where~~

Y^- is an anion selected from ~~the group~~ CAB^-, FAP^-, FAB^- and ~~or~~ Im^-,

~~where~~

CAB^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-1)

$$[B(CN)_{y1}F_{4-y1-x1}(R^0)_{x1}]^- \quad (II\text{-}1),$$

~~and~~

y1 is ~~denotes~~ 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

R^0 is ~~denotes~~ alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkyl-aryl, with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

~~where~~

FAP^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-2)

$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^- \quad (II\text{-}2),$$

~~with~~

p2 [[:]] is 1 to 20,

m2 [[:]] is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y2 [[:]] is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~ FAB^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-3)

$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^- \quad (II\text{-}3),$$

~~with~~

p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

Im^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-4)

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\ N\ (C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \quad (II\text{-}4),$$

~~and the variables~~

X is ~~denotes~~ carbon or sulfur,

p4 is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \le m4 \le 2p4+1$,

q is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \le k \le 2q+1$,

y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 or 2,

~~where~~

m4 is [[=]] 0 if p4 is [[=]] 0, and

k is [[=]] 0 if q is [[=]] 0,

where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, and the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the ~~proviso~~ provisos that:

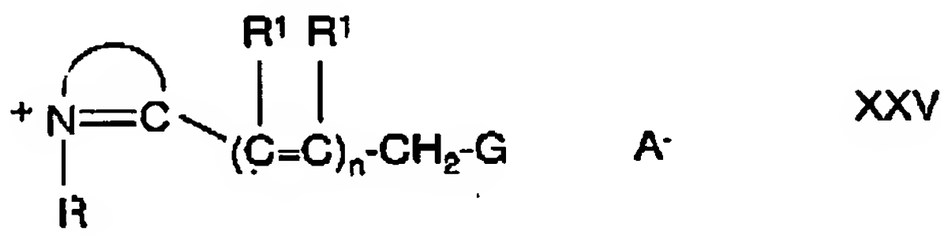
if X is sulfur, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 2, and

if X is carbon, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 and p4 or q ≥ 1,

~~and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F~~.

34. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ for the preparation of a compound ~~the compounds of the formula XXIV~~ according to Claim 33, said process comprising reacting ~~characterized in that~~

a compound of ~~the~~ formula XXV

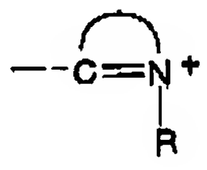


XXV

in which

A^- is ~~denotes~~ Cl^-, Br^-, I^-, BF_4^-, PF_6^-, ClO_4^-, sulfate, tosylate, hydrosulfate, triflate, trifluoroacetate, acetate or oxalate,

the ring system, represented by



,

is ~~denotes~~ a nitrogen-containing unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic heterocycle having 5 to 13 ring members, which optionally further contains ~~may furthermore contain~~ 1, 2 or 3 N and/or 1 or 2 S or O atoms, and in which the heterocyclic radical is optionally ~~may be~~ mono- or polysubstituted by Z,

Z is ~~denotes~~ hydrogen, alkyl, NO_2, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, COOH, Oalkyl, SCN, SCF_3, COOalkyl, CH_2-COOalkyl, NH_2, NHalkyl, or $N(alkyl)_2$,

n is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,

R is ~~denotes~~ alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl,

R^1 is in each case, independently of one another, ~~denotes~~ H, Cl, Br, I, alkyl, partially or fully chlorinated alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, Oalkyl, Oaryl, Salkyl, Saryl, NHalkyl, $N(alkyl)_2$, C(O)H, C(O)alkyl, C(O)aryl, CN, N=N-aryl, $P(aryl)_2$, NHC(O)alkyl, or NHC(O)aryl, and

G is ~~denotes~~ hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, $N=C(R)_2$, CONHaryl, C(O)aryl, or CONHalkyl,

~~is reacted~~ with a compound of ~~the~~ formula XXVI

E^+Y^- XXVI,

in which

E^+ is a cation of the alkali metals, alkaline earth metals or of a metal from group 11 and 12, ammonium, alkylammonium containing C_1-C_4-alkyl, phosphonium, alkylphosphonium containing C_1-C_4-alkyl, or guanidinium, ~~and~~

~~where~~

Y^- is an anion selected from ~~the group~~ CAB^-, FAP^-, FAB^- and ~~or~~ Im^-,

~~where~~

CAB^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-1)

$$[B(CN)_{y1}F_{4-y1-x1}(R^0)_{x1}]^- \quad (II\text{-}1),$$

~~and~~

y1 is ~~denotes~~ 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

R^0 is ~~denotes~~ alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkyl-aryl, with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

~~where~~

FAP$^-$ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-2)

$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^- \quad (II\text{-}2)_a$$

~~with~~

p2 [[:]] is 1 to 20,

m2 [[:]] is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y2 [[:]] is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

FAB$^-$ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-3)

$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^- \quad (II\text{-}3)_a$$

~~with~~

p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

Im$^-$ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-4)

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\ N\ (C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \quad (II\text{-}4)_a$$

~~and the variables~~

X is ~~denotes~~ carbon or sulfur,

p4 is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m4 \leq 2p4+1$,

q is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q+1$,

y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 or 2,

~~where~~

m4 is [[=]] 0 if p4 is [[=]] 0, and

k is [[=]] 0 if q is [[=]] 0,

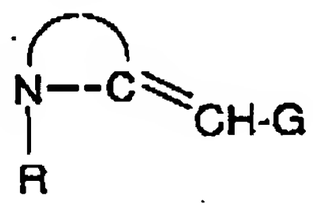
where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, and the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the ~~proviso~~ provisos that

if X is sulfur, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 2, and if X is carbon, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 and p4 or q ≥ 1, ~~and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II 4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F.~~

35. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ for the preparation of a compound ~~compounds of the formula XXIV~~ according to Claim 33, with the restriction that n in formula XXIV is ~~denotes~~ 0, ~~characterised in that~~ said process comprising:

reacting a compound of the formula XXVII



XXVII

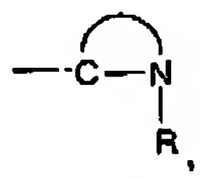
in which

G is ~~denotes~~ hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, N=C(R)$_2$, CONHaryl, C(O)aryl, or CONHalkyl, ~~and~~

R is ~~denotes~~ alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl,

~~and~~

the ring system, represented by



is ~~denotes~~ a nitrogen-containing unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic heterocycle having 5 to 13 ring members, which optionally further contains ~~may furthermore contain~~ 1, 2 or 3 N and/or 1 or 2 S or O atoms, and in which the heterocyclic radical is optionally ~~may be~~ mono- or polysubstituted by Z,

Z is ~~denotes~~ hydrogen, alkyl, NO_2, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, COOH, Oalkyl, SCN, SCF_3, COOalkyl, CH_2-COOalkyl, NH_2, NHalkyl, or N(alkyl)$_2$,

~~is reacted~~

with a compound HY,

where

Y^- is an anion selected from ~~the group~~ FAP^-, FAB^- and ~~or~~ Im^-,

~~where~~

FAP^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-2)

$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^- \quad (II\text{-}2),$$

~~with~~

p2 [[:]] is 1 to 20,

m2 [[:]] is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y2 [[:]] is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

FAB^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-3)

$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^- \quad (II\text{-}3)$$

~~with~~

p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

Im^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-4)

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\,N\,(C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \quad (II\text{-}4)$$

~~and the variables~~

X is ~~denotes~~ carbon or sulfur,

p4 is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \le m4 \le 2p4+1$,

q is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \le k \le 2q+1$,

y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 or 2,

~~where~~

m4 is [[=]] 0 if p4 is [[=]] 0, and

k is [[=]] 0 if q is [[=]] 0,

where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one

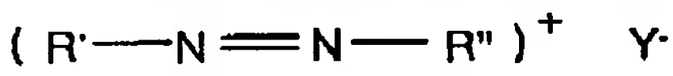
another by single bonds, and the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the ~~provise~~ provisos that

if X is sulfur, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 2, and if X is carbon, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 and p4 or q ≥ 1;

~~and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F~~.

36. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ for the preparation of an azo dyes according to Claim 6, ~~where the~~ wherein said azo dye conforms to ~~the~~ formula XXVIII



XXVIII,

where

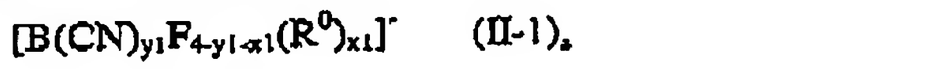
R' and R'' are each ~~denote~~ aryl or heteroaryl and one of the two aromatic nuclei is positively charged, ~~and~~

~~where~~

Y^- is an anion selected from ~~the group~~ CAB^-, FAP^-, FAB^- and ~~or~~ Im^-,

~~where~~

CAB^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-1)



$$[B(CN)_{y1}F_{4-y1-x1}(R^0)_{x1}]^- \quad \text{(II-1)},$$

~~and~~

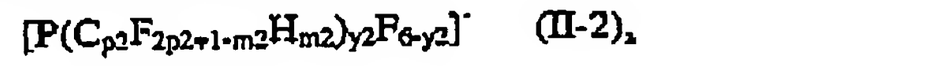
y1 is ~~denotes~~ 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2 or 3 and

R^0 is ~~denotes~~ alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkyl-aryl, with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

~~where~~

FAP^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-2)



$$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^- \quad \text{(II-2)},$$

~~with~~

p2 [[:]] is 1 to 20,

m2 [[:]] is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y2 [[ ]] is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

FAB conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-3)

$$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^- \quad (II-3),$$

~~with~~

p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

Im^+ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-4)

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\ N\ (C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \quad (II-4),$$

~~and the variables~~

X is ~~denotes~~ carbon or sulfur,

p4 is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \le m4 \le 2p4+1$,

q is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \le k \le 2q+1$,

y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 or 2,

~~where~~

m4 is [[=]] 0 if p4 is [[=]] 0, and

k is [[=]] 0 if q is [[=]] 0,

where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, and the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F,

said process comprising reacting ~~characterised in that~~ a compound of ~~the~~ formula XXIX

$$R'\text{-}N_2^+ \quad Y^- \quad \text{XXIX},$$

where R' and Y^- has one of the meaning indicated in the case of formula XXVIII,

~~is reacted~~

with an ~~the~~ aromatic cyclic or heterocyclic compound R".

37. (Currently Amended): A compound according to ~~Compounds of the~~ formula XXIX

XXIX

in which

R' is ~~denotes~~ aryl or heteroaryl, ~~and~~

~~where~~

Y^- is an anion selected from ~~the group~~ CAB^-, FAP^-, FAB^- and ~~or~~ Im^-,

~~where~~

CAB^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-1)

$[B(CN)_{y1}F_{4-y1-x1}(R^0)_{x1}]^-$ (II-1),

~~and~~

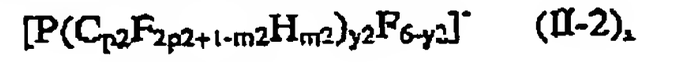
y1 is ~~denotes~~ 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

R^0 is ~~denotes~~ alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkylaryl, with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

~~where~~

FAP^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-2)



$[P(C_{p2}F_{2p2+1-m2}H_{m2})_{y2}F_{6-y2}]^-$ (II-2),

~~with~~

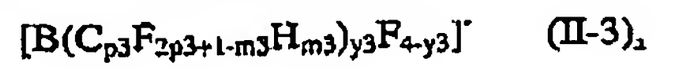
p2 [[:]] is 1 to 20,

m2 [[:]] is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y2 [[:]] is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

FAB^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-3)



$[B(C_{p3}F_{2p3+1-m3}H_{m3})_{y3}F_{4-y3}]^-$ (II-3),

~~with~~

p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

In conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-4)

$$[(C_{p4}F_{2p4+1-m4}H_{m4}XO_{y4})\ N\ (C_qF_{2q+1-k}H_kXO_{y4})]^- \qquad (II\text{-}4)$$

~~and the variables~~

X is ~~denotes~~ carbon or sulfur,

p4 is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m4 \leq 2p4+1$,

q is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q+1$,

y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 or 2,

~~where~~

m4 is [[=]] 0 if p4 is [[=]] 0, and

k is [[=]] 0 if q is [[=]] 0,

where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formulae II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, and wherein the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the ~~proviso~~ provisos that

if X is sulfur, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 2, and if X is carbon, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 and p4 or $q \geq 1$;

~~and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formulae II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F~~.

38. (Currently Amended): In a method of ~~Use of the dyes according to claim 1 for~~ colouring plastics and plastic fibres, preparing for the preparation of flexographic printing inks, ~~as~~ ball-point pen pastes, or ~~as~~ stamp ink, ~~for~~ colouring leather and paper, ~~in~~ preparing cosmetic formulations ~~in the paints industry~~, or coloring in biochemistry, biology, medicine, analytics or electronics, the improvement wherein a dye according to claim 1 is used for coloring.

39. (Currently Amended): In a method of using a dye ~~Use of the dyes according to claim 1~~ in data acquisition systems, reprography, in ink microfilters, in photogalvanics, laser technology or the photo industry, the improvement wherein said dye is a dye according to

claim 1.

40. (Currently Amended): In a method of using a dye ~~Use of the dyes according to claim 1~~ for CD recorders, DVD recorders (DVD+R, DVD+RW), Bluray disc (BD-ROM, BD-R, BD-RE), computer to plate, laser filters, laser marking or photopolymerisation, the improvement wherein said dye is a dye according to claim 1.

41. (New): A dye according to Claim 28, wherein CAT^+ is a cation of a polymethine dye.

42. (New): A dye according to Claim 28, wherein p2 is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8.

43. (New): A dye according to Claim 28, wherein p2 is 2, 3 or 4.

44. (New): A dye according to Claim 28, wherein Y^- is $^-PF_3(C_2F_5)_3$, $^-PF_3(C_4F_9)_3$, $^-PF_3(C_3F_7)_3$ or $^-PF_4(C_2F_5)_2$.